

CATCH IT! BIN IT! KILL IT!



Year 8 (Remote Education-January Review)

Dear Parents and Carer,

07 February 2021

I hope that you and your families are well and on behalf of us all at Spires we thank you for your continued support. As you are aware at the start of term Anthem reviewed our trust wide Remote Education policy for schools and from 11th January, we have been implementing live segments into our blended offer.

From the feedback that you have already shared, we know that this live contact is helping your children to feel better connected to school and to their teachers. The live segments are working well as part of a blended learning approach and are helping your children to feel more confident in their learning. Our monitoring shows us that the time spent in live sessions from 11th January - 5th February has increased by 75%. Your children will know when live segments are happening through their Teams calendar and whenever possible students should attend these sessions.

We recognise, that for lots of reasons some of our families find it difficult to access the live segments at set times during the day. To help you, our teachers are recording these segments, all students can then use these as a valuable learning resource at a later point to support their independent learning. Your children should continue to follow their normal timetabled lessons each day, their work will be available on Teams from 9.00am and they will be expected to submit their assignments for that day by 10.00pm that same evening.

Parent Survey: As always, your insight is highly valued and we would like to ask you to take a few minutes to complete our Parent Survey, please complete this before Sunday 14 February.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=pGcNtDFve0GB0B6WvxpVXCoZrmg0WCVFt4feHiC1jH1UOUJGOTRSTFBZTOI4NDNTUDhWM0Y3UTIZVC4u>

Supporting Home Education: Mr Khan has been working closely with our families to make sure that all students have access at home to remote education. We are enormously grateful for all of your contributions and generosity in supporting us to provide laptops and devices. We are proud of our community and once all of these devices are allocated, we would have provided connectivity, devices, or laptops to 28% of our students & families.

- 143 laptops/devices were provided to students from the last lock down and a further 146 devices and laptops have been allocated to students since the start of January.
- We have recently a further donation of 22 devices these are currently being equipped with software and we have just received confirmation on Friday that an additional 50 laptops are also on their way.

Year 8 Remote Education engagement: We know that there are a number of ways in which we can effectively measure engagement and participation during this time. We want to achieve the most accurate picture of the progress being made by your child, our teachers and subject teams are of course keeping a record of their work. In addition to this we are also monitoring the submission and completion of assignments through Go4Schools. The vast majority of Year 8 students are engaging well with their remote education and they are completing and submitting work for their teachers. Please take a moment to review our most recent snapshot below:

Week Snapshot 01.02-05.02	Devices /Internet provided to students (January)	Vulnerable &Critical worker students attending School (January)	Positive Events 01.02-05.02	Commendations 01.02-05.02	High Levels of Engagement 01.02-05.02
Year 8	21	12%	80%	48%	77%
Year 7-11	112	11%	80%	53%	83%

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Colleagues at the school have been making sure that we regularly keep in touch with you our families, and students. We have made contact with all our students since the start of lockdown and have been in regular contact with 98% of our students/families through live tutor sessions, phone calls, or emails.

Recognising student achievement: Our Heads of House are extremely proud of the students in Year 8. Rewards and recognition are a really great indicator of student engagement. Over the last week, 80% of Year 8 students have been awarded positive points and 48% have earned commendations.

Our Year 8 lockdown Inter House competition is extremely close, only small amount of House points currently separating the Houses and each House is eager to win this competition. Across the school, teachers have awarded a huge number of rewards to students, 8484 House points and 1574 commendations over this last week.

- Our students were awarded **39,368** House points in January.
- Students have earned **7212** commendations.
- **94%** of students have received rewards and positive points.
- **180** students have been recognised in our January Student Gallery. (attached)

Mrs Wilkinson has planned a live achievement assembly for Year 8 next week and Mrs Woodworth-Sturla will be sending out commendations through the post so please look out for these. (These are worth 10 House points)

Please also take a moment to look through our Student Gallery. This edition is full of the fantastic work which is being produced by your children at home.

Public Speaking (ESU update): Miss Morris would like to recognise the work of our teams of students who have recently competed in the first round of the English Speaking Union public speaking competition. This competition is for students in Year 9-11. We have strong record of success in this competition reaching the final stages of the competition placing us in the top 10% nationally.

This year we entered a Year 10 team (Speaker-Ayesha, Chair-Eva, Questioner-Max) and a Year 9 team (Speaker-Skyla, Chair-Zoha and Questioner-Olivia).

We were competing against two teams from St Helen and St Katharine School, one team from Magdalen College and one from Oxford International School. Olivia was awarded the individual award for best questioner and the Year 9 team were one of two teams to be put through to the next round.

The next round is in March I am sure that you will join me in wishing our Year 9 team the very best in this next stage of the competition. Miss Morris who supported the teams in the ESU expressed her thanks to Linnet and Daisy for their support in the competition.

“Miss Morris is really impressed by all of our students who represented the school. She said that they were absolutely brilliant and were amazing ambassadors for Oxford Spires”

Extended project lessons: From Monday 8 February, all of our KS3 students will see an additional Extended Project lesson in their tutor teams and this will be set as an assignment. This will formulate part of our 5 hour per day offer alongside their timetabled lessons, tutor sessions and independent learning. They will receive additional information in relation to each project set and this lesson will be based around Physical Wellbeing, Humanities, Citizenship & PHSE and the Creative Arts.

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OSA Whole School Reading Challenge: This is the perfect way of making sure that your child reads for at least 30 minutes each day. Mr Sheppard and Miss Har have set the whole school a reading challenge. There is something in the challenge for every type of reader and if you are unsure which challenge your child should pick please email Mr Sheppard and he will help them to choose the best one. (See the attached flyer)

Lockdown Literacy at OSA: Lockdown Literacy has been huge success and we have been continuing to read 'After the War' by Tom Palmer with our Year 7&8 students. Our live reading sessions are being led by an array of teachers from OSA and take place at 1.45pm to 2.15pm every day on Teams. After half term we will begin reading 'Ghost Boys' by Jewell Parker Rhodes.

Best of wishes for the week ahead.

Marianne Blake